

the effort to bring fairness for the victims of poisonous drywall that was imported from China. Drywall sourced from China was found to emit dangerous chemicals that make people sick and damage metal components of air conditioning and other electronics, among other effects. In Louisiana, the defective drywall came at a particularly troubling time. Just as we were starting to rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the defective Chinese drywall was imported in large quantities. Many homeowners returned after their houses were rebuilt only to soon find them to be inhabitable yet again. We are still fighting today almost 9 years after the storm to bring justice to the affected families.

Some other companies, specifically German-owned entities, that supplied defected drywall from China have participated in the legal process and made settlements that have been helpful to homeowners. However, the Chinese company Taishan, a state-owned entity, refuses to take responsibility for its harmful products and continues to disregard U.S. law and our court system. If the homeowners' contractors got drywall from Taishan, they have thus far been out of luck in seeking fair compensation as Taishan continues to ignore our court system.

In February 2014, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld a \$2.7 million default judgment requiring Taishan to cover the cost of removing its defective drywall. Even after losing the appeal, Taishan let the deadline pass for an appeal to the Supreme Court, meaning the case was back in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and Judge Eldon Fallon. Earlier this month, Taishan disregarded our legal system and refused to appear in court proceedings in this case. Judge Fallon ruled that Taishan was in contempt of court for failing to appear to address the default judgment entered against the company. He ordered Taishan to pay \$15,000 in attorney's fees of the plaintiffs and \$40,000 in penalties. Most importantly, his ruling banned Taishan and any of its affiliates or subsidiaries from doing business in the United States unless and until it participates in the court's process on this ongoing case. To help ensure enforcement of the order, the court sent notice of its ruling to the Federal Government.

I applaud the court's effort to protect the integrity of our legal system in taking action to force the Chinese company to comply with the law and the court's orders. If state-owned Chinese companies such as Taishan want to do business in the United States, they must follow the law and must honor our legal system. If they will not honor commitments and work to resolve claims, how can we expect any Americans to trust any business relations with or products from Chinese government controlled companies? Our government must insist that Taishan return to the table and participate in the legal process.

To help stop this situation from happening again, I worked to pass into law bipartisan legislation to stop unsafe drywall from entering U.S. markets by ensuring that the Consumer Product Safety Commission follows a voluntary consensus health and safety standard. Enacted in 2013, this law also ensures that unsafe drywall will not be reused by requiring that it be labeled and that its manufacturers are identified. I specifically offered an amendment to focus the emphasis of the legislation on high sulfur content, the main damaging element emitted from the defective drywall, and to make the origin of the drywall traceable to the manufacturer. This law protects homeowners going forward, but it cannot help the homeowners still looking for justice now. We know that the harmful drywall came from China, and the remedy for these homeowners is for Taishan to follow the court's order, come to the table, and reach a fair settlement.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, due to family commitments in Florida, I was unable to vote on the confirmation of Pamela Harris to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Had I been present, I would have voted against Ms. Harris's confirmation.

The Senate has few responsibilities more important than providing advice and consent on the President's judicial nominations. These are lifetime appointments with great power, whose decisions directly impact the life, liberty, and property of the parties who come before them.

Americans deserve a judiciary staffed by lawyers who are not just highly capable but who are also men and women of a particular character. We rightfully expect judges to understand their important but properly limited role to say what the law is, without bias, without agenda. As passionately as a judge may feel about a particular issue, when he or she puts on that black robe, all personal views must be set aside.

No one can deny Ms. Harris has a first rate mind or that she has built an impressive career. Unfortunately, many of her statements during that career suggest that her mind is better suited to academia, or elective office, than it is to the bench. She has identified herself as "profoundly liberal" and said she views the Constitution as "profoundly progressive." These types of statements, along with troubling interpretations of the First Amendment among other issues, paint a picture of a nominee more likely to become a liberal activist judge than one who neutrally applies the law.

For those reasons, I would not have supported granting Ms. Harris the profound power that comes with lifetime tenure on the Federal bench.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRYSON BACHMAN

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Bryson Bachman, who has served as a critical member of my staff for nearly 3 years, and as my chief counsel for the past year.

Bryson Bachman is an extraordinary judicial talent. His legal pedigree began at Harvard Law School and continued in his clerkship with the Honorable Thomas B. Griffith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and later as an associate at Sidley Austin. Bryson's talent and contribution do not come solely from his impressive background and experience but from his personal commitment to making a difference and adding value in everything he does.

I have valued and benefited greatly from his deep understanding of the law and his ability to approach each issue in a thoughtful, respectful and insightful way. Above all I have come to admire and trust him as a person of unmatched integrity. As a member of the judiciary committee Bryson's assistance and guidance have been invaluable. When he briefs an issue I know he has done the often unseen and unrecognized work of truly understanding the issue from all angles. His willingness to do the heavy mental lifting on a wide range of issues always provided me great confidence going into important judiciary hearings or voting on difficult legislation.

The test of a great leader and a great lawyer is not found simply by what they do in a given role, but more importantly, how they do it. Some walk into a room and people recognize them as the smartest person in the room. True leaders, such as Bryson Bachman, walk into that same room, as the smartest person in the room, but leave everyone in the room feeling smarter and better as a result of how the dialogue and discussion were fostered. Creating space for every member of the team to participate in and contribute to a discussion, while still driving the most salient points to consider and evaluating an array of scenarios, is the hallmark of Bryson's time as a member of my staff.

Bryson will be sorely missed in our office but we wish him, his wife Destiny and son Hamilton continued success in their next season of life and work. This CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is but a small note in history of Bryson Bachman's impact on the important work done in the Senate. However, his more important work and longer lasting impact is found in the imprint he has made on the hearts and minds of those with whom he has worked. I count myself as one of those deeply influenced by Bryson. I admire him for his talent, I acknowledge him for his loyal service and thank him for his friendship.